

Correspondence

Anonymous and Otherwise,

— CONCERNING —

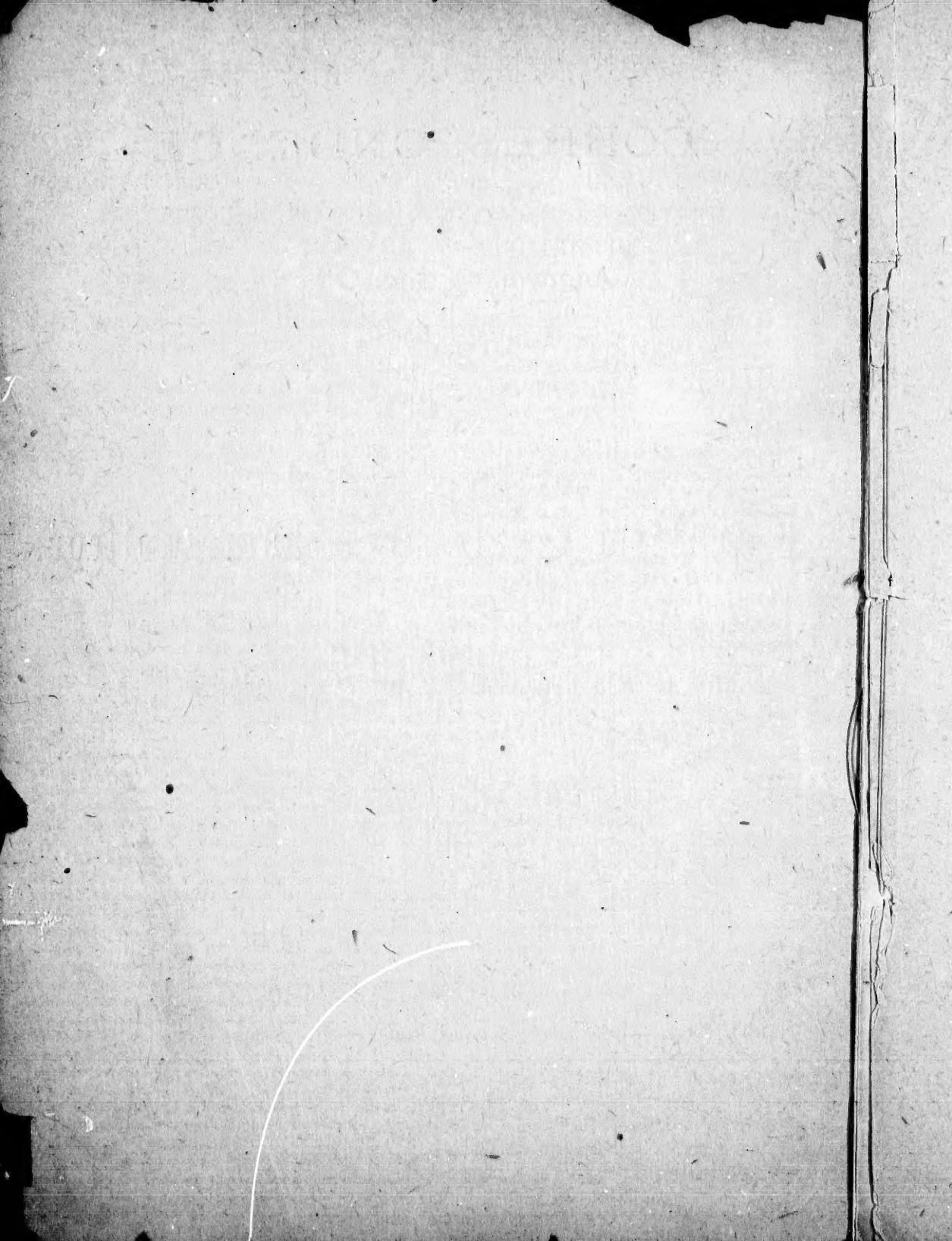
The New Chair at Acadia Col

HOW IT WAS INAUGURATED? DR. RAND, "DIDACTICS,"

HALIFAX, N. S.:

GEO. W. BAILLIE, PRINTER, 161 Hollis Street.

1888.



WHAT THE GOVERNORS HAVE DONE, AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING "THE NEW EDUCATIONAL DEPARTURE" IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

Now is the time for friends of the College to express their opinion in plain and unmistakable terms. That such a Chair is not needed, the following correspondence will clearly show. Why, then, has it been established? There are good reasons for believing that this thing was first suggested by Dr. Rand himself, and that for two or three months previous to the late Convention, he and one or two personal friends had their heads together working it up. It now comes to the light that this matter was discussed in secret meetings—be it said with shame—in secret meetings from which the oldest and ablest supporters of the College were excluded. If the thing had been mooted at the Convention, it would have created such a storm that the Governors would not have dared to carry out the pet scheme, hence the secrecy.

But now comes the opportunity. The Convention dispersed not to meet again for a year, the little trap perfected, the Governors are immediately called together at Wolfville to spring it upon the denomination. It is ten o'clock, p.m., when the vote is taken at Wolfville, and lo! nine hours from that time a long editorial appeared in the *Halifax Herald* congratulating the Governors on their good success. When was this editorial written, and by whom? Ten hours later, before a letter could possibly have reached Fredericton, Dr. Rand's resignation was announced in the *Halifax* papers. Thus we see that the whole machinery had been perfected before the Governors met at Wolfville. Then appeared flaming editorials and anonymous letters in the denominational papers highly approving of the appointment, but when anonymous letters were sent to the *Christian Messenger*, disapproving of the new departure, they were carefully shut out; hence the necessity of this pamphlet to bring the matter before the Baptist people.

It is very evident that these editorials and letters—all written by those connected with the movement—did not represent the views of the ablest

supporters of the Institution, nor did they inform us where the money is to come from to pay the salary of \$1600 a year.

The object in compiling and circulating this correspondence is to bring this matter before the denomination, and call forth a general expression of opinion now, so that those connected with this movement may know what the feeling is, and govern themselves accordingly.

Brethren, speak now, speak at once, before Dr. Rand takes his place as a Professor in Acadia.

ACADIA COLLEGE AND ITS NEW PROFESSORSHIP.

[To the Editor of the *Herald*.]

SIR,—An important announcement concerning Acadia College appeared in a recent issue of your paper, an announcement which, I presume, many others besides myself received with a considerable amount of incredulity; but as no official contradiction or correction has yet appeared, and as it is now followed by other news of a confirmatory character, I am forced to conclude that your information was authentic, and that the governors of the College really have decided upon a new departure, that of adding Dr. Rand to the teaching staff of the College, as professor of didactics, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year. In arriving at so important a decision, it is to be supposed that the gentlemen composing the board of governors have not acted without giving the subject the fullest and most mature deliberation in all its various bearings and relations. They may, therefore, be prepared to give sound reasons for the faith that is within them, and unless such reasons are given, there will, I fear, be many who, like myself, have grave doubts as to the wisdom of making such a change. No one will for one moment question Dr. Rand's fitness for the position. His great energy, untiring industry, practical experience and literary ability cannot be gainsayed. The objections to his appointment are peculiar to the circumstances and may be stated under three heads. (1) Acadia cannot afford it, (2) There is no want of it, and (3) The discrimination in the matter of salary is unfair to the other professors.

In regard to the expense, it will, I think, need no

argument to prove that we have no money with which to experiment. Read the following from the report of board of governors as published in the last Baptist year book: "The treasurer's report will deal with the details of this matter. But here it may be stated in general that the income of the Board is not equal to the outlay. The result is debt, yearly accumulating. This should be clearly understood by the denomination, and grappled with before it becomes a monster too big to be handled. There are only two ways of overcoming this difficulty; one is by reducing the expenditure; the other is by increasing the income." Do you not fear, gentlemen, that your recent action will add to this burden of debt, and eventually make it "a monster too big to be handled?" At the late convention, when the question of affiliating with the Toronto institution was under consideration, no argument was more frequently advanced by the advocates of the measure than that by accepting it we would relieve ourselves of a burden. Why, then, has a greater "burden" been placed upon the shoulders of the denomination? And why, too, has it been done without the knowledge or consent of the denomination, without anyone outside of the inner circle of the board of governors having the least inkling that such a change was contemplated? There is, certainly, as much reason for submitting this matter to the Baptist body in convention assembled as there was that in reference to the theological department. If not, why not? It is true that a large part of the late indebtedness has been subscribed, and when paid, will reduce the expenditure by a very considerable amount. Dr. Welton's resignation will also make a further reduction, but with both these there will still be a balance on the wrong side of the account. How is this to be met? Until the amounts already subscribed have been paid, it will be of little use to pass around the hat again. Under these circumstances it seems to me it would have been much better to have given the friends of the institution a breathing spell of a few years before asking them to assume additional obligations.

In the second place, there is no want of a teacher of didactics at Acadia. No students have expressed any desire for instruction in that particular department, and no graduates have ever expressed regret that they have not been so instructed. No other arts college in Canada, as far as I can ascertain, has such an instructor, and but few in the United States. None of our students while studying in Germany, or in Great Britain, have thought the subject of sufficient importance as to make it one of their studies. It does, therefore, border a little on the absurd when a college that has to be continuously appealing to its friends to come to its rescue with funds, boasts of a luxury of having what only two or three of the wealthiest colleges on this continent have, a professor of didactics. Acadia does need a professor of modern languages. These should be a part of the regular course. Room should be made for them. There is need too of

more work in science. Lectures on agriculture and practical instruction in assaying might be introduced with advantage. A college should supply a want. Just at present in this province, and indeed throughout the whole of our young and rapidly progressing Dominion, there is a need of young men educated in those particular subjects peculiar to our country, whose education could be turned to some practical account in the development of our mineral and agricultural resources. Men who can make two blades of grass grow where only one has grown before, who understand the capabilities of the country, and who can materially assist in developing them, are more needed just now than those who can spout Greek, or swear in Hebrew, or even those who have taken honors in didactics. Open new departments by all means when they can be afforded; but let them be the most useful and the most necessary first. We can wait for the ornamental and the luxuries a little longer.

In regard to my third point, little need be said. The policy of placing one professor's salary at two thousand dollars a year, or even at sixteen hundred, as rumor gives it, while others equally efficient, doing a work of even greater importance, only receive one thousand, cannot be justified. Our professors have given the best years of their lives to Acadia College. They have even donated a part of their small salaries to the institution in times of financial difficulties. If the governors can afford to be generous to any one, they certainly are the most deserving, and their faithful services of nearly a score of years should form a first claim on the generosity of the board. Believing that the governors will not object to any fair criticism of their late action, and with a view of obtaining further information in reference to it, these remarks are respectfully submitted by

A GRADUATE.

ACADIA COLLEGE MOVES.

[To the Editor of the Citizen and Evening Chronicle.]

SIR,—We are often reminded of the fact that we live in an age whose motto is "onward." The man who moves slowly will likely be left behind in the race for fame, and the Governors of Acadia College are evidently of opinion that the same is true of institutions of learning.

But it might be better, after all, for a man to stand still than to move in a wrong direction; better even to go backward for a while than to move forward over a precipice. And so I am inclined to think that it would be better for the Governors of our College to pause long enough to cast an eye about them, than to move forward in a direction that may be hazardous to the best interests of our institutions of learning.

The recent action of that body in establishing a new professorship in the college reminds one very much of the story of the man who went to the woods for a load of boughs, and having bound to-

gether what he considered a fair load, attempted to shoulder it, but finding it too much for his strength he added more to it and then made a second attempt, but of course with less chance of success than before.

Thus the Governors of Acadia College have in the past bound up a load for themselves which, according to their own showing for the last few years, they have not been able to shoulder, and now they have added considerable to that burden, and are about to make another attempt to carry it. I do not know how it may seem to those who are within the circle, but those outside cannot understand how this addition is to make the burden any easier to handle. Now, Mr. Editor, the writer has no doubt that the body of men whose action he presumes to criticize represents as much wisdom and intelligence as could be found in any body of the same number, nor does he doubt that these men have the best interests of the college at heart; but all this only makes it the more difficult to understand why, under the circumstances, they should have moved in the direction they have. The Governors are aware, of course, that many others besides themselves are deeply interested in all that concerns Acadia College, and also that those outside the Board of Governors cannot help having an opinion in reference to this new departure. They will not, therefore, be surprised to find us inclined to give public expression to our opinion.

It does seem to us that the governors will find it difficult to show that there is really any pressing need for the chair which they have now established, nor can they fail to see the necessity of making that point very clear, if they hope to make the new departure a success. For it must be evident to all, that to establish a chair for which there is no pressing demand, at a cost of \$1,600 or \$2,000 a year, in an institution that is largely depending for its support on the benevolence of the churches, will not meet with very general indorsement, and in the absence of such general approval we cannot see how the new departure can be a success. We do not say that the governors are not prepared to show that the appointment does meet a real and pressing need, but we do say that they have not done so as yet, and say further that unless they are prepared to show that such a chair is the most pressing need of Acadia College at the present time, their recent action cannot fail to be in a greater or less degree disastrous to the best interests of the institution.

Quite a number of newspaper articles have appeared since the appointment was announced congratulating the Governor on their good fortune in securing the services of Dr. Rand. Now if Dr. R.'s services were really needed at Acadia, we might compel our pen to join in these congratulations, but when one remembers the two or three departments of learning in which the college is really deficient, and in which suitable men are really needed, one is puzzled to understand whether

the wisdom of the Governors was taxed in finding a man to fill the chair or in creating a chair to suit the man. It is not speaking in the least disparagingly of Dr. Rand's ability and worth—for we freely admit both—when we say it could not be expected that he would be in a position to accept an appointment to either of the chairs which Acadia now needs, viz., modern languages and natural science.

If the Governors see their way clear to add another to the teaching force of the college, and desire to retain the sympathy and support of the churches in their work, it seems mysterious and inexplicable to us, that they had not secured a man to fill one of the above chairs.

They may answer that they are not accountable to anyone for their management of college matters. But still we think they would do well to remember that the college is embraced in the benevolent scheme of the churches, and that the future of the college depends largely on the success of that scheme. We feel sure that this new departure—as it is called—will be a matter of deep regret to many friends of Acadia.

We are a little anxious to know how the present faculty of the college feel in reference to that which seems to us an unrighteous discrimination in the matter of salary. Some of us who enjoyed the privilege of sitting at the feet of Dr. Sawyer came away from Wolfville with the conviction that he is a great man, a man possessing talents and teaching ability second to none in the Provinces, to say the least. Were we mistaken in our conviction? We believe not. At any rate, we are of the same opinion still, and it seems a little mysterious to us how it is that our competent and worthy President can be retained in the Provinces at a smaller salary than one who is to be under him. This, however, is a side issue. The fact is that the Governors of the college have assumed an additional responsibility which we believe was not wise. But we will now wait for their explanation. A PASTOR.

THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP IN ACADEMIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—I would not trespass on your columns but our denominational paper being closed to any criticism of the recent educational departure in connection with Acadia college, there is no way of calling attention to the impérilled position of this useful institution, except through the indulgence of the daily press. In common with many friends of the institution at Wolfville, I have looked anxiously for some reply to the letter of "Graduate," but have thus far looked in vain. The opinion seems to be gaining ground that the action cannot be defended,—that there is no possible ground for excusing, much less defending the establishment of a chair in Didactics in Acadia college without providing any funds for its support. It is well known that the present income is

no more than is sufficient to pay the salaries of the present staff, and it is certainly an act of gross injustice to these professors to make an appointment chargeable upon the resources that are barely enough to meet the present wants. There is now no prospect of making up this difference. The agent reports that his work is brought to a stand-still. The late appointment is so unpopular that nothing more can be collected for paying off the debt or for enlarging the endowment. How then can the governors justify their action? The people want to know.

Oct. 3, 1883.

ALUMNUS.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—I was much surprised to read in the communication of "Alumnus" in the *Herald* of to-day, concerning the recent appointment to the faculty of Acadia College, the statement "our denominational paper being closed to any criticism of the recent educational departure in connection with Acadia College." I have taken pains to enquire if it were so, and find that the statement is not true. Another statement, I find, is not sustained by facts. He says: "The agent reports that his work is brought to a stand-still" (in consequence of the recent appointment). Now I am informed that the agent gave to the Governors of the College as the reason of his being unable to continue his agency the illness of his wife. Would it not be better for "Alumnus," and others writing on this subject, to be sure of their facts before putting them before the public to the injury of their Alma Mater.

A SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER.

Halifax, Oct. 4.

THE NEW CHAIR IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—In reply to the letter of "Scholarship Holder" in this morning's *Herald*, I can say that I had the statement directly from the agent—Mr. Denton—himself, and indirectly from many others, that he could get no more pledges after this appointment to the new chair had been announced. His chief argument had been that the institution was in debt and that the denomination was morally bound to discharge this debt. The contributions had been made with this object in view, but when the Governors again involved themselves to the extent of \$27,000, or \$1600 a year, this argument could be no longer used.

With regard to "our denominational paper," I have testimony to the effect that three articles were refused publication in that organ. One of these was sent before the appointment and the others afterwards. The two latter have since appeared in the daily papers. I can name them if required, though I had nothing to do with their preparation. On both these counts, therefore, "Scholarship Holder" is convicted by direct testimony. As this gentleman is possessed with a yearning desire for

getting at "facts" he will, no doubt, accept thankfully the information I have just given him.

Mr. Eaton informs us that he is "one of them" and is willing to give information to those "entitled" to receive it. If an "Alumnus" of the College is not "entitled to be informed" there are many others who have contributed largely to the support of the institution, and who have its welfare closely at heart, who would be thankful to know how the imposition of this new burden is to involve anything short of a serious financial disaster. I have a high regard for the gentleman selected to fill the chair, but I must think that the Governors have shown great unwise in making the appointment at this time.

ALUMNUS.

Oct. 5th, 1883.

"SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER" MISINFORMED.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—I do not know who "Alumnus" is or what his experience with our denominational organ has been, but mine teaches me that what he says is about correct, and that said organ is closed to any criticism of the recent educational departure in connection with Acadia College. The editor was asked to publish my article which recently appeared in the *Herald*, but he refused, at first on the ground that my name was not attached, and when I consented to have my name appear he refused even then to insert it on some trivial pretext or other. I have positive proof of this.

Oct. 5, 1883.

GRADUATE.

"GRADUATE" EXPOSED.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—In this morning's *Herald* "Graduate" tries to show that my statements were inaccurate, and speaks of the editor of "our denominational organ" as having refused to publish his article, which had already appeared in your columns (!) over the signature "Graduate," and says: "When I consented to have my name appear he refused even then to insert it on some trivial pretext or other." The "pretext" was that the communication had already appeared in the *Herald*. The idea of a communication which had appeared in the *Herald* over one signature afterwards appearing in another journal over another name may appear to "Graduate" all right and dignified, but to sensible men would be the veriest trifling and childishness. The young man seems to have fallen into the trap he had set for another.

A SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER.

October 6, 1883.

"SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER'S" CLAP- "TRAPS."

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—"Scholarship Holder" is of the opinion that to publish an article concerning Acadia Col-

lege in the *Christian Messenger* after it had appeared in a secular paper would be the "veriest trifling and childishness." Be it so. Not very long ago the editor in question did that very same thing in the case of something I wrote—that is, he copied from a daily paper nearly a column and made favorable editorial comments upon it. "Scholarship Holder," therefore, must acknowledge that what he now states is miserable rubbish or that in the past the management of this denominational organ in question has been characterized by the "veriest trifling and childishness." Which horn does he prefer? More than that, mine was not the only article refused, and this is not the only occasion in which the organ has been closed to criticism. If any one wishes particulars can be given. I have never had the least difficulty in getting the editor to insert anything I chose to write in favor of the institution or the management, and if my article had been of such a kind I have no doubt it would have been published even without my name, inasmuch as he has copied nearly everything that has yet appeared favoring the movement—most of which, by the way, has been written by some of the Governors themselves. "The (old) man seems to have fallen into the trap," etc.

GRADUATE.

Oct. 8, '83.

THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP IN ACADEIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—Your correspondent "Alumnus" asks how the Governors of Acadia College can justify their recent establishment of a chair of education and their appointment of Mr. Rand to fill it. I have no authority to speak for the Governors, but as one of them I am ready, if your correspondent desires it, and if on learning his name I consider him entitled to be informed on the subject, cheerfully to give him my justification for joining in and supporting the action in question. This is all I can do in the matter.

B. H. EATON.

35 Bedford Row,
Halifax, Oct. 4, 1883.

THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP IN ACADEIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—I did not write the article signed "Alumnus," and do not know who did, but feeling a deep interest in the welfare of Acadia College, I should be glad to hear, through the press, Mr. Eaton's reasons for joining in and supporting the appointment of Dr. Rand to the professorship of "Didactics"—provided, of course, Mr. Eaton "considers me entitled to be informed on the subject."

WILLIAM L. BARSS,
52 Bedford Row.

Halifax, Oct. 5th, 1883.

THE CHAIR OF EDUCATION IN ACADEIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Mail.)

SIR,—Certain action recently taken by the Governors of Acadia College—namely, the establishment of a chair of education and the appointment of T. H. Rand, D.C.L., to fill it—appears to have caused dissatisfaction among some friends of the institution, and in your columns and those of other journals these Governors have been called upon to justify, if they can, the steps taken by them. Now, the Governors are responsible to the Baptist convention of the Maritime Provinces, by whom they are appointed, and in due and proper time their action will be reported to that body, who may approve or disapprove, as may seem good to them. Upon the propriety of their own action the Governors will stand or fall. While responsible to the convention, however, and bound to report to that body, they are not responsible to anonymous newspaper correspondents, nor required to justify their proceedings through the public press. Hence they will not probably be heard from on this subject till the next meeting of convention. While this is so, however, I felt, as one of their number, I was at liberty to furnish to any one the reasons which prompted me to support the action in question, and accordingly offered on easy terms to give them to your anonymous correspondent "Alumnus" on being furnished with his name, but the offer was declined, and he that was anonymous is anonymous still and likely to remain so, probably for good reasons. Later, my friend W. L. Barss, Esq., the worthy son of one of Acadia's best friends, has asked me to justify through the press the proceedings above referred to. I accede, because he is worthy who asks, and because silence might be misinterpreted. Besides, many people are inclined to believe there is a good deal of flame where there is a little smoke. It is wonderful how the dust raised by a few anonymous writers is sometimes taken as an indication of a tempest, and the talk of a small village is sometimes mistaken for the "murmur of the world," particularly by the folks of the village.

It is no new thing that the action of the Governors of Acadia has caused dissatisfaction. I do not recollect a time when it was not so. There will always be those who will criticise unfavorably every new movement, and it may not be altogether unfortunate that it is thus. It is frequently by adverse criticism that the real merits of any line of action are made indisputable. Acadia has survived all such manifestations, however, and has steadily and surely grown in favor, I believe, both with God and man.

After the college governors had had their day in the convention recently held in this city, and the subject of foreign missions came before that body, the governors met to consider the situation. They found that by the action of the convention they were no longer charged with the duty of

providing for theological instruction at Wolfville; that Dr. Welton had been appointed a professor in McMaster Hall, and that the convention had, in fact, transferred matters theological to Toronto. This placed Dr. Welton's salary (\$1,000) at the disposal of the governors. They found further that the most gratifying announcement had been made to the convention that our mortgage debts and our debt for current expenses, amounting in the whole to about \$33,000, had all been, except but a trifling sum, subscribed for during the past year, and that now we could count on the saving to the college of the interest heretofore paid on that large sum. In other words, they found that in one year the endowment had been increased by nearly \$33,000.

At this moment I think it must be apparent that, from a financial point of view, the way was open for some new appointment, unless, indeed, it be the desire of the denomination that the governors save and curtail till they bring back the former days when they conducted Acadia with two professors and called it a college. Their motto, however, is forward. Acadia's shadow never shall become less if the governors can help it. They have grave responsibilities thrust upon them. They must plan for the future as well as for the present. Often must they take steps in advance, trusting first in God, and then in the denomination, always keeping in view the great object of advancing the moral and spiritual, as well as the educational interests of the youth entrusted to their care. From the earliest days of Acadia such steps in advance have been taken in trust and hope, and neither God nor the denomination has deserted the successive governing bodies, and I believe it will always be so while their motives in managing the institution are pure, unselfish, and prompted only by an earnest desire to perform their high duties.

Well, the question now arose, theology being transferred to Toronto, and the financial outlook being so encouraging, what branch of instruction should we now undertake in place of the one thus transferred. And it was suggested, if I recollect correctly by President Sawyer, that instruction in the theory and practice of teaching would, in his opinion, be most desirable as a part of the prescribed course in Acadia College. The suggestion was long and carefully discussed, and the more it was discussed the more convinced the governors became that nothing was now so much needed in the college as the branch of learning suggested. This point being settled, where could be found the man who could and would rise to the great occasion? Enquiry elicited the fact that among our own number then sitting with us could be obtained to take charge of this branch of knowledge the man of all men in these maritime provinces by universal acknowledgment the best qualified for the position—Dr. Rand, then chief superintendent of education for New Brunswick. Well, here then was the subject now recognized by the governors as one of the utmost importance, and here was the man.

What did the governors do? Many no doubt even in such a juncture would have counselled delay, further consideration, and so on, but I see no reason why, when a good thing presents itself which you can now obtain, you should delay a moment. I must quote the words of Bret Harte, they are so appropriate: "They saw their duty—a dead sure thing, and went for it there and then." Now I must trace this matter on to its consummation, though the details may seem tedious, for generally speaking I believe a grumbler is more severe on details and modes than on the thing itself.

I must explain here that the establishment of any branch of instruction in the college and the selection of the man to take charge of it does not come within the jurisdiction of the governors of the college. That duty devolves on the senate of the university. Of whom is the senate composed? The faculty of the college and six fellows and twelve scholars. They are the literary body; they regulate the course of study, recommend the names of new professors, and so forth. It became necessary, therefore, that this body should be called together to initiate, if they should please, this business. This, of course, required time, as the members of the senate reside in various places in the Provinces. I mention this because I observe that some anonymous writer complains that this business was not placed before the convention. It was quite impossible to bring it before that body. It required ten days or so to summon together the body on whom alone the establishment of the proposed chair devolved. This is enough to say to those who are willing to be reasonable.

The senate met at Wolfville about a fortnight after the convention. I was present, as I had a right to be, though not a member of that body. It was moved by Hon. Judge Johnston and seconded by another member, that a chair be established in Acadia College to be known as the chair of "the principles and practice of education," and that Dr. T. H. Rand be recommended to the governors as a man pre-eminently qualified to fill it. The motion was fully and generally discussed and unanimously and, I thought, enthusiastically adopted. Afterwards the senate duly reported their action and recommendation to the governors, who had arranged for a meeting on the same day. Now, will those who have expressed dissatisfaction with the action of the governors in adopting the recommendations of the senate please explain how it is they find no fault with the senate for making those same recommendations? Looking to the fact that the senate is composed first of the president and professors of the college, and secondly of fellows and scholars selected by virtue of their eminent literary abilities, I think it is sufficient justification of my supporting the action now in question to show, as I have done, that I was only voting to adopt the recommendations of a very learned body to whom peculiarly and legally belonged the maturing of such recommendations. But I know the governors were not bound to accept the recom-

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mendations of the senate. We could have overruled them, and therefore, perhaps, I am driven in absolute justification to show that such recommendations were not bad, but were good. They came from a high source. Yes, but they may have been unsound. Yes, of course. But I am willing to stand upon the soundness of the action of the governors, irrespective altogether of the high authority of the senate. The chair was needed—needed more than any other you can name. The new professor is to teach, I take it, “the principles and the practice of education,” the history of education, the methods of instruction, the nature of knowledge and the methods of acquiring and imparting it, the nature of man and the methods of educating from it all possible perfection, and the preparation for the organization and the management of the school, and the conditions of its efficient operation, and so on. To acquire knowledge is one thing, to impart it is another. I can point you to graduates of Acadia who stand very high as scholars who have been utter failures as teachers. They were taught many things, but no one ever taught them how to teach. This branch of knowledge they were left to pick up for themselves and failed in the attempt. By-and-bye we shall need new professors. Where shall we get them? Why, we are making them now. In the classes of to-day at Acadia are the professors of a few years hence. Shall they be taught how to teach, how to successfully impart the instruction they are now receiving, or shall they be left to pick that knowledge up for themselves as they try their unskilled hands on our sons and daughters? If a college graduate is to stretch ahead of his less educated fellows in any line of the world's work, as he ought to do, then it will not be alone because he has acquired more, but because with all his acquisitions he has learned how to impart and make most practical application of his knowledge. In short, the honestly educated college man is bound to be able to adjust all his powers and acquisitions to the living forces which he finds around him in the day in which he lives. If he cannot do this his education is a failure; he becomes a square peg in a round hole and an incubus—it may be an ornamental one—on the world's progress. I look to the professor of teaching more than to any other professor to square young men for the work they are bound to do. And I look to this professor in the coming years to tell the governors of the college who among those who have passed out from under his hands are best qualified to take a professor's chair. So much for the chair. Now as to the man chosen and appointed to fill it. Need I justify voting for Dr. Rand to take this chair? Well, if I must I must, though it certainly is a work of supererogation. Who is Dr. Rand, and what has he been doing? He is a graduate of Acadia, a member of that splendid class of 1860. He is a Baptist all over and through and through, and will stick to the ship through all weather. He loveth our people, and if he has not

built us a synagogue it is simply because he has not the means. He is apt to teach, and skilled and experienced in teaching. Four years was he with Dr. Forester in our normal school and gained a good reputation as a teacher. Then he was chosen by Dr. Tupper as Superintendent of Education, to put into successful operation our common school act, which thing he did as all know. After six years of such work in this Province he became Chief Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick, and filled that post for twelve years. Need I say more on this point? Since his recent appointment by the governors the press of these Provinces have expressed with wonderful unanimity the high esteem in which Dr. Rand is held. Further words from me on this point would be superfluous. But one thing more I will say of Dr. Rand, which will be recognized by our Baptist people as somewhat important. Often and often have I heard our people demand the governors to appoint them professors who could visit our associations and conventions, and other public assemblies, and bring home to the people the benefits and needs of the college, and broaden down in some sense the work of the college to the comprehension and sympathy of those who supported it. Our system requires something of this kind. This is not a “vain thing” for us; it is “our life.” Under God, we live and move and have our being in the hearts and purses of the Baptist people. Now tell me, you who know, where is the man in all these Provinces better qualified for just this thing than Dr. Rand? I know of none. And it came about that when the senate of Acadia recommended the establishment of the chair of education, and recommended Dr. Rand to fill it, I most heartily voted for the adoption of those recommendations. But now there is a small matter connected with this business that I must mention, which has exercised a good many friends, no doubt. It is a matter concerning a sum of \$600, or, as I shall show, something less than that. You know we pay our professors very small salaries. We can't afford to pay high ones. The president receives, I believe, \$1200 and the professors \$1000. They are worth more. They could get more otherwheres no doubt. But nobly they have regard to our circumstances, and so work on for the sake of the cause. Now it transpired before we appointed Dr. Rand that he would not take the chair for a salary less than \$1600. And although it is a part of the contract with Dr. Rand that he shall teach classes in the Ladies' Seminary and Horton Academy in addition to his work in college, for which those institutions could properly be charged with \$400 or \$600, thus leaving his college salary the same as that of the other professors or as that of the president, yet the governors felt that it might be looked upon by our own people as an unjust discrimination against the other professors to give Dr. Rand \$1600. Accordingly this matter was frankly and in a Christian way put before the president and professors, and they were desired to state if this would be regarded

as objectionable by them, it being stated on behalf of Dr. Rand at the same time that he would not accept the chair unless it was entirely agreeable to all the members of the faculty. With a magnanimity and generosity worthy of all praise and of perpetual remembrance, the president and professors concurred in the appointment being made, though at a salary higher than their own. So I voted for that feature of the business, which I certainly would not have done but for the noble stand taken by the faculty.

I think no one will say the salary to be given the new professor is too large. It is away below the salaries given by other colleges for the work. If his salary is not too large, it follows the others are too small. The governors are alive to this, and have already started with good prospects, a scheme for levelling up the other salaries, without in the slightest interfering with the general funds of the college. I have referred to the above matter rather fully, though a delicate one, because I know some have felt aggrieved on the point, but I think that when, for the sake of securing the man of our choice, the professors themselves rose superior to this hindrance; in such a case I think others can scarcely complain.

Were this letter not already so long, I would refer to some things asserted by your anonymous correspondents. One thing only I will speak of: It is asserted that in consequence of this appointment our agent can collect no more money for the college. Now, I am creditably informed that there is no truth whatever in that assertion, but that the agent has suspended work for the present on account of illness in his family. I have had very little opportunity to learn how this appointment will be received by our people, but I have heard credibly from one important center of Baptist influence that the appointment is accepted with great satisfaction, and that happens to be a locality where Dr. Rand is particularly well known, and a locality which has the honor in the person of one of its noble-hearted Baptist people, in starting the \$33,000 subscription before referred to with the splendid contribution of \$3,000.

My letter is too long, I have had no time to make it shorter, so I close here with thanks for space.

Yours, etc.,

B. H. EATON.

A GOVERNOR'S REASONS.

[To the Editor of the Herald.]

SIR,—I see by your issue of last evening that Mr. Eaton gives his reasons for joining in and supporting the new move at Acadia. I should say that he is himself a living illustration of the fact that such a chair as the one in question is not needed. There was no such chair when Mr. E. took his course, and yet we find that he is able to teach not only what he knows, but we see from his letter that he is able to write that about which he seems not to know. I have no doubt that some one will review

his letter more thoroughly than I have time to do, but I want in as few words as possible to show that Mr. E.'s letter, while confessedly eloquent, yet lacks the power to convince the careful reader, for the reason that he assumes certain things to be facts which are not facts, and on these assumptions he builds up his argument. I think I have heard it whispered somewhere in the course of my life that if the premises be false the conclusion reached must be also false. Let us see on what foundation his arguments rest.

1st. He assumes that our theological work having been transferred to Toronto is to cost us nothing, thus saving \$1000 a year. Does Mr. E. mean that we are to have our interest in the theological seminary at Toronto free of cost. I do not think that the Baptists of the Lower Provinces are quite prepared to go begging. If we are to consider that the school in Toronto belongs in part to us, we must be prepared to bear part of the burden. That institution has seven professors, and to claim any interest in the work at all, we must support at least one of the seven. If we are not prepared to do that much, I hope that Mr. E. or no other Baptist in these provinces will consider the work as in any sense belonging to us. As I understand the departure in theological work, it was not to relieve us of responsibility altogether, but rather to give us a more efficient institution at the same cost. A resolution looking in that direction—(Mr. E. will remember) was introduced near the close of our late convention, and though it did not pass, we all know that it is a matter that must be considered at our next annual gathering.

2nd. Mr. E. assumes that the debt of \$33,000 on our institutions at Wolfville has been paid, which of course we all know is not the case. It is true that about \$33,000 have been subscribed, to be paid in three annual instalments. Now let us suppose that all those who have subscribed will be prepared to meet their obligations promptly, the first instalment will be due in one year, so that for the present year the amount of interest will not be in the least diminished. And hence taking the most hopeful view of matters we will have \$1,600 to pay this year, about \$1,100 next year, and \$500 the year following. Then if we discount subscription list 25 per cent. as we must always do, we find that Mr. E.'s eloquence on the point is rose-colored indeed.

3rd. Mr. E. assumes that the new chair "was needed more than any other you can name," and in proof of this point, he says that he "can point to graduates of Acadia who stand high as scholars but who are failures as teachers." Granting that to be a fact, What of it? For every one such graduate to whom Mr. E. may be able to point, I could name scores who not only stand high as scholars, but who are most successful as teachers, preachers, and lawyers. Will Mr. E. please tell us when Dr. Rand acquired his great ability as a teacher? Did he take a course in the "principle and the practice of education"? and if so, under what professor and in what institution? If Dr. R.

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has attained such great eminence in the teaching professio: without such a course, why may not others of moderate ability attain the same eminence? Is Mr. E. prepared to show that the graduates to whom he can point as failures would not have been failures even if such a chair had been established in Acadia at the beginning. What Dr. R. has accomplished in this line, others may accomplish if they have the same advantages, and we all know that Acadia has far greater advantages to offer her students to-day than she could offer them when Dr. R. was a student. The very fact of selecting a man as pre-eminently qualified to give instruction in a department of learning, in which he himself has never been instructed, is sufficient of itself to explode Mr. E's argument on this point.

4th. Mr. E. assumes that our present professors are not men who "can visit our associations and conventions, and other public meetings, and bring home to the people the benefits and needs of the college," &c. Has Mr. E. never heard Dr. Sawyer deliver himself on these points before our public gatherings? I think he has, and if he thinks there is a man anywhere to be found who can do it better, I think he will find it difficult to convert others to his way of thinking on that point.

But I leave the faculty of Acadia to defend themselves, which they are fully able to do if any defence was needed, but I am happy to say that in the opinion of all—unless indeed Mr. E. is an exception—they need no defence either from themselves or others. Believing that the governors and senate of Acadia College *must* have stronger arguments, and better reasons to give in justification of the new departure than those given by Mr. E., and thanking you for the space in your columns to discuss this important matter, I will now close and await further developments.

ELIUS.

Oct. 7, 1883.

THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—As a true friend of Acadia I would desire to add a few words to what has already been said in reference to the "recent departure." Your readers and the Baptist body generally will feel anxious to know what is thought of the appointment of Dr. Rand, in the county of Kings, to teach what no one has yet been able to explain. I can inform them that it is viewed with the greatest dissatisfaction. Having talked with a large number of the friends of Acadia I find them almost unanimous in their condemnation of the new appointment. In fact I have found but one gentleman favorable to Dr. Rand, and that party proved to be a governor, and one of the promoters of the new chair. In Wolfville, the seat of Acadia, our friends are loud in their condemnation, and many assert "that Acadia College is placed in a greater peril to-day than ever before."

The whole affair looks badly from beginning to

end. This *plot* of placing Dr. Rand at Acadia was talked over at the convention lately held at Halifax by a *few* leading governors, but, let me assert, very quietly talked over. They well knew that what they were doing, should the appointment be consummated, would not bear the light of day. It is a sorry day for Acadia when appointments must be made in the dark. If this kind of business continues it need not take a prophet to predict where Acadia will soon be placed. I am informed that at the meeting of the favorable governors a leading Baptist at Wolfville, a gentleman who has, perhaps, done more for Acadia than any one else, a scholarship holder, and consequently entitled to be present, was virtually invited to leave the room on account of *private* business—and the invitation expressed by our leading educationist. *Private business indeed.* These governors will soon find out that though *private* as regards the appointment of Dr. Rand that the business was of such a *public* nature as to imperil the interests of Acadia. Doubtless it was thought that if "we, the *runners* of Acadia College, appoint Dr. Rand immediately after the convention, although it may raise a storm for the time being, it will blow over before the meeting of another convention." Not so, governors; you have raised such a storm that the fury of it will not abate until Dr. Rand steps down and out, or you justify your action. Dr. Rand is preparing to locate in Wolfville. It will surprise his friends if he occupies a "Didactic" chair, knowing, as he must know, that a vast majority of the supporters of Acadia are dissatisfied with his appointment. We think better of the man than to believe that he will. We are proud to know that "Graduate," "Alumnus," and others, are sounding the note of alarm. Let other *true* friends of Acadia follow in more forcible language if necessary, for the time has come when the Baptist denomination are not to be played, and when secret conclaves and appointments will not be tolerated. It is not surprising to learn that our denominational papers are closed to criticism. Some one has got an axe to grind, you know. No wonder our agent finds his work of collecting funds at a stand-still.

I assert it is high time for the friends of Acadia to halt—the *benevolent* friends I mean. I have heard Mr. Denton beg, fairly beg, for money, and nobly has he done so, to free Acadia from debt. Can he do so longer? I reply not until this new appointment is justified. Is the Baptist body to supply funds to support an unnecessary chair, while chairs absolutely needed are unoccupied? They will not do so.

Baptists to the rescue! Let something tangible be done. Let this appointment be immediately revoked before it is too late. If necessary, call a special meeting of the convention at Halifax or St. John to hear from the governors in justification of their recent act. In this letter I speak the minds of hundreds in this county and, I believe, the minds of nine-tenths of the supporters of Acadia. A petition is being circulated in Wolfville; let it

appear in print. That petition will be found to contain the names of our leading Baptist friends condemning the appointment. Supporters of Dr. Rand—founders of the "Didactic chair"—see where you have, by your dark work, placed our loved Acadia—in a position more fatal than she has ever occupied before. Let the Baptists to-day rise quickly and place our Acadia on the solid rock instead of allowing her to rest on the shifting sand—a position she now occupies owing to the recent move of the governors.

A BAPTIST.

Oct. 8th, 1883.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.)

MR. EDITOR.—I make no apology for offering this contribution to the discussion in regard to the new departure at Acadia. In common with my brethren I am deeply interested in her welfare, and I heard the first whispers of the new departure, just at the close of the convention, with doubt and anxiety.

These feelings have not lessened as time has passed by and the new policy been more fully developed. In truth the new movement is regarded throughout the denomination with a deep and growing disfavor. That disfavor springs from three sources. These are: 1. The manner in which it was done. 2. The chair itself. 3. The salary.

1. As to the manner, it is felt that in accomplishing the new movement a method was used which savors of the caucus. It is felt that while the "Boss" is repudiated by all honorable politicians, his hand is to be felt in the new departure, and if the political "Boss" is despicable, what shall be said of the religious "Boss." This suspicion may have no foundation, but its mere existence is fatal to the success of the new movement. It is justly felt that in so important a matter the convention should have been consulted, and that in this matter the governors have exceeded their mandate.

2. As to the chair itself, it is felt that since the Province has undertaken the duty of furnishing to our teachers all the technical training they require, we are not called to make good any deficiency in that training. If such deficiency exists the duty of remedying it clearly belongs to the Government, and to it alone. The college occupies no standing ground from which to appeal to the churches for the support of the new chair; and if she did, it is felt that a departure in the direction of affording a training in the practical affairs of life is more urgently called for.

3. As to the salary, it is felt that while it is not too large the others are entirely too low, and since it is the duty of the denomination to raise these latter at the earliest opportunity, the appropriation of any available funds in the erection of a new chair with so much larger a salary is clearly an injustice. That is not the proper way to effect the needed rise in the salaries of the others. I have heard it stated that more than one of Dr. Rand's

friends are so deeply impressed with the value of his services to Acadia that they have offered to contribute a material portion of his salary for a term of years, and that this has been one of the reasons for the movement. But this is insufficient. Had Dr. Rand's friends amply endowed the new chair and then nominated him for the position this appointment by the governors would have been a proper and graceful act.

In view of all the circumstances it is due to the governors and to the denomination alike that their action should be fully and immediately vindicated.

H. H. READ.

ACADIA COLLEGE AND ITS NEW PROFESSOR.

(To the Editor of the Mail.)

SIR.—It is generally considered that the course of study as carried out at Acadia gives the ordinary student as much work as he can consistently perform. What, then, did the governors think when they created a new professorship? Did they suppose that students would lay aside some of their present work in order to sit at the feet of Dr. Rand, or was the professorship established for the extraordinary student only?

Another generally admitted fact in all colleges is that the professor who has spent the best part of his life and energy in some one college shall always take precedence of every new appointment, excepting under very peculiar circumstances. But in the appointment of Dr. Rand have not the governors thrown an insult upon the present professors at Acadia, by giving Theodore H. Rand, D.C.L., a larger salary than even the president of the college? The present professors have only small salaries, and I verily believe remain in their position from the love they have for Acadia. How is it that Dr. Rand is of so much more value to Acadia than Dr. Sawyer, whom everyone acknowledges to be a very superior man in his department; than Dr. Higgins, who has been called one of the very best mathematicians of Canada; than Professor Jones, who is considered by all classical men a great classical scholar?

There must be something greater in Dr. Rand than in any of these if the text that "the laborer is worthy of his hire" holds true in college matters. It has been set up as a plea for giving Dr. Rand such a large salary, that Dalhousie College was negotiating for his services, and I am sorry to say some blame Dr. Sawyer for so strongly recommending Dr. Rand as an efficient man to fill the position of professor of Didactics.

By what means did Dr. Rand gain so great an ascendancy over the governors of Acadia College? What did they see in the man to place him so high in their estimation? I have never heard and never knew Dr. Rand was considered anything more than of ordinary ability. He may be well qualified for the position of superintendent of education, and may have performed his work well when in that

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On another point I would gladly be enlightened. Why was this matter not brought forward at the convention? Why was it done with closed doors, and in the dark hours of the night? And the very men who pay largely to the support of Acadia, and are deeply interested in the college, knew nothing of this transaction until it had been settled. Further, was not the man who had in Acadia's most dire necessity come liberally to her assistance, asked to retire from the meeting that this thing might be carried through?

It has been strongly hinted in some circles that Dr. Rand has a partner in this transaction who eventually expects reward for his labors. I am anxious that some one of the governors should answer some of these questions, for I feel that this is the worst blow Acadia has had since the great loss she met with through the salt mine. QUERIST.

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DIDACTICS! DIDACTICS!

(To the Editor of the Mail)

SIR,—Mr. Eaton has very kindly and very courteously afforded us—or tried to afford us—the information sought, viz., his reasons for supporting the recent new departure at Acadia. He is to be complimented on the literary character of his article, if not on the soundness of his arguments; on his fearlessness in boldly asserting as fact what has yet to be proved; and on the ability he displays in concealing beneath a superabundance of words a very great scarcity of anything like solid reasoning. He tells us at the outset that it is nothing new for the governors of Acadia College to be criticised. I take issue with him on that point. It is a new thing for the governors of Acadia to be criticised, seriously and in the public press, for men who have given thousands of dollars to the institution—Acadia's best friends—to boldly denounce the action of the board of governors, and even threaten, as some of them now do, to put an injunction upon them, to prevent any of the present income being appropriated to pay the new professor. Acadia has in the past grown in favour both with God and man, we are told. And why has it? Simply because it has been conducted in accordance with Baptist principles, and in such a way as to secure the hearty support and co-operation of the denomination. Never before has there been any such meetings, any concealment, any whispering together among the governors; never before has there been any of that which, in political circles, would be called wire-pulling and jobbery.

And so the matter was considered at meetings of the board held during convention! Why then was the whole thing kept such a profound secret? The reason Mr. Eaton gives is childish—because, forsooth, the senate had not approved of it! Before the senate had approved of it, before it was fully decided upon, before Dr. Rand had resigned his position in New Brunswick—then was the time to

take the sense of the denomination, and not afterwards. What would have been more natural, what more becoming, what more honest than for the members of the Board to have come forward and said to the convention; "brethren, we are thinking of making a change if the senate approves of it. We want your advice in the matter." But no, the decisive step is taken, the mischief is done, and at the next convention we will be told, as we are now privately told by one of the governors, "O, the thing must stand; we can't do without it now; we have *not* money enough to pay the damages."

But there is another point which Mr. Eaton neglected to refer to. How did Dr. Aylward, of St. John and Hon. Mr. FitzRandolph, of Fredericton, know about the proposed innovation? They were not at the convention, and they did not attend the meeting of the board in Wolfville; and yet at that meeting in Wolfville letters were read from them expressing their approval of it. *Who canvassed them?* There is a good-sized African in the fence somewhere.

Mr. Eaton's treatment of the financial question is most ingenious. Dr. Welton's resignation did relieve the governors of paying \$1000 a year to him, and the debt of \$33,000 has been subscribed. Yes, but the \$1000 only balances an annual deficit of about that, and the \$33,000 is not to be paid till three years. Time enough to appropriate that when we get it. I have heard Mr. Denton distinctly state that part of that \$33,000 was promised on the understanding that we kept out of debt. Mr. Eaton would have us believe that the governors concluded to establish a chair of education, as he calls it, *before* the question as to who should fill it was thought of. It is too late to tell such a story as that. Everybody knows, for several governors have frequently stated it in private conversation, that Dr. Rand himself advocated the establishment of such a chair and his own appointment, desiring, as he expressed it, "to get out of the turmoil of politics and quietly settle down in some such position in connection with his life-work. There are good reasons for believing that the idea originated with him, that he secured the approval of a few of the governors, taking them "one by one," and that these afterwards influenced the others. Some have candidly told us that they approved of it because certain other persons did. One of the principal arguments in favor of it that has been privately advanced is that another institution had made overtures to Dr. Rand with a view of establishing the same chair there,—an institution that has a bequest of nearly, if not quite, one hundred thousand dollars as yet unappropriated, and which, having already a professor of modern languages and three professors in science, can well afford to try the experiment of a professor of school-teaching. But it is questionable if any such overtures ever were made, although the rumor of them had something to do with the recent decision. But Dr. Rand "loveth our people." I would be sorry to question that; but when Mr. Eaton tells us in the

very next paragraph that "it transpired before we appointed Dr. Rand that he would not take the chair for a salary less than \$1600." he affords us a pretty accurate means of judging the heights and the depths of the Dr's love for our institution. That is not the kind of love that our professors have had for it in the past, which has led them to devote their lives to it, and contribute of their small salaries towards its support.

The only justification that Mr. Eaton offers for the large salary is that the professors did not object when called in and told what was proposed. Fancy a professor placed in such a position saying "yes, I object, I'll 'strike' if you do." They ought not to have been placed in so delicate a position. The only possible answer that they as gentlemen could give was the one they did. Moreover, I have reason for suspecting that such representation was made to them as led them to believe that the new salary was not to be a tax on the present income. But is the chair needed? This is the important question, compared with which all others are but secondary. I will not follow Mr. Eaton through the labyrinth in which he has travelled in dealing with this point, nor, indeed, is it easy to discover amid his rhetorical logomachy, just what he is driving at. He speaks of a "square peg in a round hole," "an incubus" of "squearing young men for the work they are bound to do," and such like "rot,"—for it is nothing else, meaning, I suppose, that Acadia's graduates have not been successful in the past for the want of proper instruction in "Didactics." How happens it that a man who has never been taught this wonderful subject is so eminently qualified to fill this important position? Acadia's graduates to-day are filling, and filling successfully, the most prominent positions in this dominion and the neighboring republic. They stand in the very front rank among the judges, the barristers, preachers and teachers of this province, and when Mr. Eaton insinuates to the contrary, he pays a doubtful compliment to his brother alumni. Mr. Eaton's definition of the new professor's duties would seem to include instruction in anatomy and moral and mental philosophy. The first is, not needed, the others are now thoroughly and efficiently taught. Didactics, as taught in other institutions, is the the science of school-teaching. Only this and nothing more. Do we want such a professor at Wolfville? I say distinctly and emphatically, no!

Only a small portion of Acadia's graduates become teachers, and most of these have had all the experience needed before they go to Wolfville at all, and besides, we have a thoroughly efficient Normal School, that we are now assisting to support, where teachers can get better professional training, inasmuch as they have greater facilities. Let the square pegs in round holes go there for three or six months. Taking it all in all, Mr. Eaton's letter, while it will make no converts to his cause, will confirm the conviction of those already opposed, and go far to convince the rest

that a serious, an unpardonable, an expensive blunder has been committed; a blunder which, if persisted in, will do more to bring about university consolidation, by alienating from Acadia the affections of many of her best friends and supporters, than anything that the most zealous consolidationist could possibly do. I have no axe to grind; no private interests to subserve. The interest I feel in my Alma Mater alone prompts me to write this letter.

F. ANDREWS.

Halifax, Oct. 10, 1883.

ACADIA'S "DIDACTICS."

(To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.)

SIR,—The recent appointment of Dr. Rand to a chair at Acadia on the art of teaching, with a salary of sixteen hundred dollars per year, seems to have given almost general dissatisfaction among the friends of that college. Several well written letters on the subject have appeared in the columns of the different newspapers criticizing severely the appointment in every particular, and calling upon the Governors of the college to show good and sufficient cause as to why such a chair was created and why Dr. Rand is the appointee, and why the salary is sixteen hundred dollars.

Only one letter has been written attempting to justify the above, and that by an old friend and college chum of the Dr.'s. Mr. Eaton, one of the Governors of the college and a party to the transaction, is the author of the letter I refer to, and he has attempted, in a well-written letter, to prove that the chair was needed at Acadia, and that Dr. Rand was built to fit that chair completely. Mr. Eaton's letter shows him (Mr. E.) to be a clever lawyer and quite able sometimes, with a bad cause, to submit to a jury with great force his side of the case, and, providing that the jury do not know as much about the case as he, without doubt he would be successful. Here, however, Mr. Eaton has gone to a jury as fully conversant as he with the position and needs of Acadia College; as fully conversant as he as to the desirability of a chair on the art of teaching in any art college, and as fully acquainted as he with the capability of Dr. Rand to fill such a chair, and, consequently, he has lost his cause. His arguments, otherwise and on their face strong, have therefore no weight whatever.

I venture to say that no sane and unbiased man will say for one moment that, even supposing Dr. Rand is the best man in the whole world to fill such a position, and even supposing a plethora of funds at Acadia, that a chair on the art of teaching was needed or at all desirable.

The wants of a college or denomination, like the wants of a community, are always apparent, and are sought for by repeated demands until the supply is furnished, and the supply is only obtained when the demands shows it to be needed. Now, when and where has the Baptist body shown that such a chair as didactics has been needed by them

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in their college? When and from whom did such a cry go forth? Where has been the demand? If none, then why obtain the supply?

Years ago, in happy moments of thought, it became apparent to a few venerable leaders in the Baptist body that the denomination must have a college—and why? because there was a general demand for education, particularly denominational schools. What did these good, old and true friends of the Baptists do? Did they meet with closed doors and secretly agree to build and equip a college? No, they first debated the subject before the whole body in full and solemn conclave, and out of the same. They found a growing and universal demand for an institution of learning, and they then took steps to provide for its supply. They knew then that they had the full sympathy and support of a large and influential body at their back, and their work was consequently crowned with success.

When a president was to be elected for the college, or a new chair to be created, something of the same course was pursued.

O shades of venerable and departed fathers! is there none left upon whom you have thrown your mantle? Has the time gone by in the history of that college you loved so well and nurtured with your prayers and your tears when "none was for a party and all was for the state"? There are still left, I believe, good men and true among the friends of Acadia not willing, if they can help it, that she be made the last resting place of the disappointed hopes and unemployed talents of any of her old sons. Hence these tears. There are art colleges on the continent of America, I believe, older, richer and better equipped than Acadia, yet I should like to know of one embracing a chair on the art of teaching.

Harvard College is old and rich, and, though situated in the very Athens of America, and amidst the most developed and cultured thought of the age, yet has she such a chair? She educates thirty hundred students to Acadia's one hundred, yet no didactics there. How about Yale? How about Brown? Both plenty of money and students yet no didactics there. Either, I suppose, they have not seen the needs of it at all, or perchance they have no needy sons, or perchance their governing body value their college too highly to sacrifice its interests for a friend, be he never so needy. A speaker once discoursing on the evils of smoking used the old argument that it shortened life. He was answered by an old man, who said that his father had reached the good old age of ninety years before he died and had smoked all his life. To what greater age he might have lived if he had not smoked we can only surmise. I myself am a graduate of Acadia. It was there I studied Latin and Greek and all the arts that tend to make men famous, and though I never studied didactics, yet am an adept at teaching and always found it easy to teach others in a short space of time all I knew. Had I studied didactics, what might I not have

been? O, Didactics, Didactics! Now, to me, of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest is didactics. Let me ask Mr. Eaton when it first dawned on the Governors that such a chair was needed, and did it dawn all of a sudden like, and was the light so sacred that they wanted to keep it all to themselves, or was it so faint and feeble that no one could see it but themselves, or if the light was seen were they fearful of it being blown out? And again Mr. Eaton, was not the chair made for the doctor and not the doctor for the chair? I well remember the feeling I had when I first saw the announcement of this event. It was on a clear evening in the month of September, when all nature was hushed in deep repose and not a zephyr disturbed the serene stillness. Amid the gathering darkness a kind of awe seemed to steal over me. I saw then for the first time that new and strange word, didactics. What does it mean? Is it, I thought, not then knowing Dr. Rand's versatile ability, a chair on the science of the superintendence of education? And then, methought, I saw Acadia filled with any army of such superintendents in embryo. I thought I read on the building "The art of superintendence of education or didactics taught here. Theology now abandoned." And I thought I saw somewhere on its walls a flaming advertisement reading thus:

"Owing to the want of funds the Governors of Acadia College regret to say that they have had to dispense with the chair of theology, hitherto filled by one of the ablest men in the denomination at a salary of one thousand dollars a year, and owing to a great and increasing demand for a chair of didactics and to other circumstances, the Governors have seen fit to create such a chair, to be filled by Dr. Rand, a man eminently qualified to teach the art of superintendence of education or didactics, taught in no other college in the world."

A spell came over me. Grand stroke of business! thought I, something unique. But when I saw in print the next day the true meaning of the word and what was to be taught by the doctor, the spell was broken. Nothing so grand now loomed up before me, but something far more unique.

As to the Dr.'s qualifications, however, I took it for granted there could be no doubt. Although quite true that his talents had never made him famous, yet I presumed the persons who had appointed him to the chair were fully satisfied on that point, since they had only a short time before conferred on him the degrees of D. C. L., and, though he might possibly have been before that date weak in some few branches of learning, yet, now, forsooth, he, a D. C. L., was capable of teaching anything. Judging, however, from Mr. Eaton's letter it does not appear that Dr. Rand was selected by the Governors on account of his great ability to fill the chair, but chiefly because he was to bring before the denomination at all times the claims of their college, or, in other words, because he was a persuasive speaker. Such an argument as this, I admit, never presented itself to my mind,

and, as it is the most powerful argument in favor of the appointment in Mr. Eaton's letter, and one upon which he lays great stress, let me supply an answer on one ground only.

The Baptist College or denomination evidently needs an orator. I take this for granted, otherwise, according to Mr. Eaton's letter, this appointment might not have been made:

I will also take it for granted (though I do not know) that Dr. Rand is a first class orator, or at any rate as good an orator as he is a didactician. Now, could not his work be done cheaper and quite as well?

I can teach, as I said before, and I am also a bit of an orator, and thought it would be somewhat of a sacrifice, yet I hereby place my talents, oratorical and didactical, on the altars of my alma mater and tender my services to the college at half the money given to the doctor. If the Governors see fit to accept this offer, I will undertake the duties as soon as they confer on me the degree of D.C.L. Or I will engage for the same sum, \$800, to bring an orator once a year and on this occasion, and any occasions when this body meets and can be addressed in conclave, who will then and there address the body and who will wax eloquent on the subject of Acadia, and who will so warm and fire up his audience that one and all will be obliged to throw their gold and silver at his feet in order to prevent it melting in their pockets. Mr. Eaton, I fear the appointment is not popular. Take care that you have not written Ichabod on the walls of your alma mater.

DIDACTITIAN.

THE ACADIA COLLEGE TROUBLES.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—I regret exceedingly that my name has been dragged into the controversy on the new professorship in Acadia College. I am compelled, in justice to myself and in the interests of the work in which I am engaged, to say that the statement of "Alumnus," that the agent reports his work brought to a stand still by virtue of the recent appointment, is not correct. Even if I had said to "Alumnus" what he reports I have said it would have been a private communication, and he should not have put it in the public press. I have made no official report of such a nature as the above, nor have I announced it in the public press. Certainly "Alumnus" will communicate with the agent, if he desires the best interests of Acadia, when he again wishes to make public private communications. Will "Alumnus" please communicate with the agent.

Yours very truly,

A. J. DENTON.

Parrsboro', Oct. 8, '83.

MORE APPERTAINING TO THAT CHAIR OF DIDACTICS AND MR. EATON'S LETTER.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—My friend, Mr. B. H. Eaton, certainly has my best thanks for the evident mental strain he has been placed under, at my request, in evolving for

the press what he styles his "reasons" for supporting the movement so evidently distasteful to the generally expressed opinions of the warmest friends and supporters of Acadia College.

As his two columns of *assertions* seem to be receiving all necessary attention, I shall defer making any formal reply to the subject of his letter for the present. It seems fortunate, indeed, for the other members of the board of governors that Mr. E. in stating his reasons "speaks only for himself."

Assuming, however, that Mr. E.'s reasons formed the basis of action of the whole board, one can—without taking a course in didactics—quite easily understand the assumed modesty of that board, and why they have thus far, individually and collectively, remained silent while under the fire of the enemy of their pet scheme. Notwithstanding that the most general murmurs of dissatisfaction have been heard in almost every town and village of our Province, not one sentence—save and excepting Mr. E.'s "reasons"—has been heard from the governors in their own defence; nor has one friend of this movement—not even from that "locality where Dr. Rand is particularly well known"—yet taken pen in hand and, either "anonymously" or otherwise, attempted to say aught in favor of their action. Until substantial reasons are brought forward by the governors in support of their recent proceeding in providing a chair of education for Dr. Rand, I shall, with many others, still believe them to have "fallen into a trap," and their action to have been premature—unwarranted by the present state of the college curriculum and inexpedient under the existing condition of our college finances. Without occupying further of your valuable space, I should like to be informed by those who have undertaken to provide for the new chair whether a professor of didactics has been ever regularly nominated for appointment at a regularly called meeting of the senate of the university? They (the senate) "recommend the names of the new professors." Hence the importance that the different members of that body should one and all be properly notified of any meeting requiring their presence. I am credibly informed by one member of the senate that he never received any notice of meeting either verbal or otherwise. Until corrected I shall be of opinion that not only were informal and unheard of meetings held in Halifax during convention, but that the meeting of senate convened at Wolfville to make this appointment was irregular and not according to its constitution and bye-laws.

WILLIAM L. BARSS.

October 12, 1883.

THE DEFENCE OF THE GOVERNORS OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—It is very much to be regretted that Governor Eaton "could not find time to make his 'exculpating' article shorter." So lengthy

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was it, that although two or three have essayed a rejoinder, a number of heads or points still remain unnoticed. Lest any one should say that these were shirked, please allow me briefly to touch upon a few of them. Mr. E. says that "the matter of the salary was frankly put before the president and professors, and they, with a magnanimity and generosity worthy of all praise, concurred." Now I am prepared, on the authority of different members of the faculty, to say emphatically, that they know nothing about such concurrence, and that they know nothing of it still. If the president did give in his adhesion, a reason can be assigned, which does not obtain in the case of his colleagues. His salary, as stated by Mr. E. is \$1200. I am informed that he has in addition the house and premises he occupies free of rent or its equivalent, which would be \$150 more. His son receives a salary of \$900, which is much the same thing as that much added to his own; making up \$2,250 in all. So that there was no particular reason why the president should urge an objection to the salary of the new professor, *as throwing him into the shade*; which so many writers in this controversy have deprecated so feelingly and tearfully. Mr. E. tells us that in consideration of the comparatively large salary attached to the chair of didactics, the professor is expected to give lessons in the academy and seminary. One is compelled to say in reply that neither the academy nor the seminary is in need of such services. Both are amply provided with teachers, who, Mr. E. will not probably deny, are quite competent to the work assigned them; and none in either school is overworked. Consequently in the low condition of the funds of the institution there are no hundreds of dollars to spare for unnecessary or useless services. The teachers have possibly quite enough to do, but I think one would be safe in saying that they would rather assume new burdens than sanction an addition to the staff of instructors by so questionable and sinister a course of procedure. As the new chair has been both playfully and gravely said "to have been made for the man" who is to occupy it, so here a nice but not very satisfactory reason is assigned for raising the salary attached hundreds of dollars above those of his colleagues. Another of Mr. E.'s statements should not be unnoticed. He tells us of the "self-sacrifice" of the other professors in serving the college for so small a remuneration, and mentions it in terms of gratulation and praise. But it is not expected of the new professor, it seems, that he should come under a "self-denying ordinance," and follow the meritorious example. The only explanation of which is so strangely exceptional, that occurs to the mind, is that the professor of didactics occupies so lofty a place, and is placed on so high a pedestal, that such sublunary matters as "self-sacrifice" are beneath his notice, and that he is content to leave all the credit and merit of them to ordinary professors and common mortals in general. Mr. E. gives us the secret history of the es-

tabishment of the chair of didactics and of the appointment of Mr. Rand to the professorship. Briefly stated it was this: The governors at a meeting held in Halifax during the convention decided that there ought to be such a department, and that Mr. R. was the man for the situation, and they recommended accordingly to the senate. Next the senate, at a meeting held shortly after in Wolfville adopted the recommendation of the governors, and in their turn recommended the governors to establish the chair and appoint Mr. Rand as professor. And lastly the governors at a meeting held the same day in Wolfville, adopted the recommendations of the senate and consummated the measure. Or more briefly still, the governors recommended the senate to make a recommendation to them; the senate made the recommendation as recommended; and the governors adopted the recommendation which they had recommended the senate to make. We have heard of "reasoning in a circle." Here is the same mathematical figures doing service in another line quite as useful and no less amusing. And what makes the process the more funny is that the same individuals largely compose both senate and governors. How amused one of these gentlemen must be when he is gravely considering the propriety of acting according to his own recommendation, doing as a member of the senate what he as one of the board of governors recommended, and as a governor what he as a member of the senate advised.

But I must pass over much that is tempting in Mr. E.'s letter and hasten to a close. Mr. E. asks: "Who is this Dr. Rand?" and kindly relieves us of the trouble of answering the question. "He is," says the interrogator "a Baptist, all over and through and through." The language is very forcible, more so possibly than elegant and classical, but we will let that pass. It is perchance very well to be a Baptist, but to be one "through and through" would seem to have little place for other qualities, most desirable in an officer, whose business it is, par excellence, to mould and form the plastic minds of the young. Rigid denominationalism is thought to cramp the intellectual powers and to narrow very unfavorably the horizon of our views. A broader and more comprehensive vision is desirable in this age of free thought and enlightenment—one that can see sincerity and goodness and worth outside the pale of the denomination to which we may chance to belong. But we are informed further by Mr. E. that the new professor "loveth our people, even if he hath not built us a synagogue." I once saw an old-fashioned book, whose principles are now-a-days pretty much discarded, in which there was some such sentiment as this: "Show me thy love without thy works, and I will show thee my love by my works." Why have we not had the synagogue? It costs no more to build a college hall on the land than a floating palace on the sea. Have we then in the above quotation Mr. E.'s ideal of a professor of the science and art of teaching? Whether it

would swell the attendance of Baptists at Acadia College or not, I am not prepared to say: it certainly would do much to repel and exclude other denominations from the rare benefits which, we are taught would inevitably accrue. But that is not precisely what the friends and governors of Acadia College, as I take it, desire. Nor is that what is contemplated in the charter of the institution.

A BAPTIST.

Oct. 12, 1883.

ACADIA COLLEGE FACULTY CHEESE PRESS.

The present position of affairs at Acadia College has been strikingly and ingeniously cartooned by a young lady at Wolfville in the following manner, namely: The scene is laid in front of the college building at Wolfville. The president and professors representing the late faculty of the college are sketched standing crowded together within a large cheese press, the president occupying a central position amid the group. Above them hangs the cover ready to be pressed down by a large lever resting in a wooden frame. A tall figure wearing a beaver hat, representing a former member of the faculty, is seen rapidly taking his departure, carpet bag in hand, marked "Toronto." With his hand upon the press, and in the very act of stepping into it, is a lively representation of the new professor of "Didactics," bearing upon his coat tails the word "Pedagogics." Last, and completing as it were the scene, is a tall, grave figure of another D.D., who stands by the lever ready to set in motion the faculty press by aid of a 1,600 pound weight which he has near at hand, at the same time pointing excitedly to a college building in the distance, upon which are marked the letters "Dalhousie," and exclaiming, "If you don't let him in I'll put him in there within a week." Original copyright reserved.—*Com.*

[For the Christian Messenger.]
ACADIA COLLEGE.

SIR.—It is not my purpose to "indicate" the action of the Board of Governors of Acadia College in establishing the new Chair of Education. That action will no doubt be reported up to the Convention at the proper time and place, and be adopted or rejected by that body as the wisdom of Convention shall dictate. As one of the Governors, however, I cannot allow certain statements made by Dr. H. H. Read in your last issue to pass unchallenged.

1. As to the manner, it is more than insinuated that the new movement was inaugurated in secret conclave, in a dishonorable and underhanded manner. Dr. Read tells us that "it is felt that in accomplishing the new movement a method was used which savors of the caucus"—that "the hand of the 'Boss' is to be felt in the new departure." This, I confess, is to me altogether new and some

what startling. Perhaps the learned Dr. will be good enough to inform your readers who the persons are that cherish such kind and Christian "feelings" towards their brethren, and which of the Governors is understood to be the "Boss." At the same time he might explain why he has felt at liberty to make such slanderous and "despicable" insinuations on a mere "suspicion," which, as he himself admits, "may have no foundation" in fact, and which, as I shall show presently, *has* no foundation whatever.

There is certainly no mystery about the matter. On the last day of the convention recently held at Halifax it appears there was a meeting of the Board of Governors to readjust College work in view of the action of convention of the previous evening in respect to Theology. At that meeting the President of the College, Dr. Sawyer, I am told, suggested several changes which he deemed desirable, and among the rest he mentioned the establishment of a Chair of Education. A committee was then appointed to consider the whole question of readjustment, including the feasibility of establishing the new chair. That same evening, just prior to final adjournment of convention, it was announced in open convention that there would be a private meeting of the Board at the Granville Street Church Vestry on the following morning. I attended this meeting and there received from the lips of the President of the President in connexion with the report from that committee my first hint of the "new departure." I soon learned too why a *private* meeting had been called. Dr. Rand had been approached in connexion with the matter, and he had requested that until it was known what recommendation the senate, in whom is vested the right to initiate such matters, would make, the fact that he had been approached by the Governors should be held in strict confidence. Surely there was nothing so very heinous in all this. Dr. Rand was then Chief Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick, and we all felt that his request was most reasonable. This is the only "caucus" of which I have any knowledge, and if Dr. Read is better informed he should be more particular in his statement, and given us the facts.

2. Dr. Read's criticism in respect to the chair itself arises clearly from misapprehension. No special effort will be made to do Normal School work or to "make good any deficiency in that training." The new chair has been founded for the benefit of *all* under-graduates, and is intended to supply a want which has been long felt by college men. Many graduates of our colleges utterly fail in their life work, not for want of knowledge, both in extent and accuracy, but from lack of ability to apply that knowledge to the practical duties of life. Those even who have been fairly successful would no doubt have been much more successful had they been well grounded in "the principles and practice of education." This subject has of late been receiving unwonted attention from leading

will be the person of the Christian church of the "At the time felt at picable" which, as he in fact, has no matter. held at of the work in previous meeting, I am deemed the A complete whole responsibility evening, evening, it is there at the following there the President at come." I had been in con- cerned that on the be such had been held in so very Chief swick, season have formed, and chair No school in that or the ed to college y fail both ty to of life. would had and f late ading

educationists in the United States. In a recent address delivered before the Corporation of Brown University, President Robinson said: "The number of men annually graduating from our colleges with very creditable attainments as to both extent and accuracy of knowledge, but showing a lamentable incapacity for systematic thinking and for clear, forcible and correct, not to say elegant, expression of their thoughts, is one of the standing reproaches to our American education." If I know anything of what is really meant by the good old phrase "A liberal education," the new chair "of the principles and practice of education" is not the one to be regarded as of least importance to the students of Acadia.

3. Of the question of salaries little need be said; Dr. Read admits what all must feel that the salary of the new professor "is not too large." The trouble is that the other salaries are too small. I was not present when this part of the business was discussed and decided, and accordingly do not feel called upon to justify what was done, but it seems to me that the explanation of the matter given by Mr. B. H. Eaton in his letter published in the *Morning Herald* of the 9th instant should satisfy any reasonable person. He says: "The governors felt that it might be looked upon by our own people as an unjust discrimination against the other professors to give Dr. Rand \$1600. Accordingly this matter was frankly and in a Christian way put before the President and professors, and they were required to state if this would be regarded as objectional by them, it being stated on behalf of Dr. Rand at the same time that he would not accept the chair unless it was entirely agreeable to all the members of the faculty. With a magnanimity and generosity worthy of all praise and of perpetual remembrance the President and professors concurred in the appointment being made, though at a salary higher than their own. So I voted for that feature of the business, which I certainly would not have done but for the noble stand taken by the faculty."

With these facts before them, your readers, I think, will be slow to conclude that the governors acted hastily, or without fairly and justly considering all the important interests involved.

Yours, &c.,
EDWIN D. KING.

Halifax, Oct. 15, 1883.

[See *Christian Messenger* October 24th for Dr. Read's reply.]

THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP.

(To the Editor of the Herald.)

SIR,—Hitherto I have not written a line on this subject, nor did I intend to do so, for deeply as I feel the outrage sought to be inflicted on Acadia College by the hole and corner shuffle the other day at Wolfville, I did not believe when the whole thing came to be exposed that any one would be

found to come out squarely in its defense. When Mr. Eaton's extraordinary letter appeared, I waited to hear from Mr. Basse, who had the right of reply; but as that gentleman has reserved his answer till a later period, and the discussion seems to have become general, I feel at liberty in the meantime to address you a few words on this governor's "justification" of the official act complained of.

In the first place I hope Mr. Eaton will forgive me for saying that he is the author of a distressing amount of what I consider rubbish,—goody goody generalities, moral aphorisms and startling interrogatories—but rubbish nevertheless, because not pertinent in the faintest degree to the grave issue now suddenly forced upon the supporters of the college. "Who Dr. Rand is and what he has been doing," is no doubt an enquiry of interest in some quarters. The assurance that "Acadia's shadow never shall be less if the governors can help it" is a platitude harmless, if not quite consistent with their acts. And the further announcement that neither "God nor the denomination has ever deserted them" would be the reverse of objectionable if their recent action did not create the sad suspicion that such "desertion" was imminent at least. One half of his letter, I say, is not to the point. And the other half, as I shall show you, falls far short of the justification he sets himself up to propound.

Divested of all irrelevance and nonsense, what are the bald facts of the case? What is the gravamen which Mr. Eaton or any other apologist of the governors was bound to meet and handle? It is of a three fold character.

First and foremost there stands the question of finance. We have an institution in debt, and still going in debt—expenditure and running income—a diminishing capital and a steadily augmenting drain upon it. A condition of things in which embarrassed traders find themselves when they must either wind up their business or call a meeting of their creditors. This seems to be a very light matter to Mr. Eaton—a trifle to be disposed of with a dash of the pen. How does he meet it? By a homily on the necessity of going "forward." Prudent business men will ask, is this just the time to increase our burdens. Mr. Eaton replies, "go forward." Now, I do not believe myself in going back. No one wants to return to the former days when they conducted Acadia with two professors, and called it a college. No greater slander upon Acadia's friends could be uttered than the insinuation that they are capable of allowing her—governors or no governors—to retrograde one step. She has steadily advanced from the day of small things, thro' misfortune, and fire, and tempest, and sometimes bad management, up to her present proud position. Why! Because her governors have invariably taken the friends of the college into their confidence. In the hour of need, in the moment when new schemes had to be launched, or new lines of action taken, they threw themselves upon the hands of their constituents, and sought by a

frank avowal of their policy the counsel and support the exigencies of the hour demanded. And nobly did the offerings of those friends justify the confidence reposed in them. But the governors of to-day seem to have discovered a way of going forward without that assistance from outsiders which their predecessors, in their simplicity, considered so essential. Mr. Eaton has not disclosed it. True, he affirms that "some new appointment" was financially practicable, but does he remember the condition of things when Dr. Welton's resignation swung the governing body clear of their embarrassments? Was not the theological transfer discussed and accepted among other reasons, as deliverance from those financial troubles? If so, was that the favorable moment, I ask, for an already staggering institution, to shoulder a heavier load, without at any rate an appeal to those—the bread-winners of the college—who at the very time were engaged in relieving their overburdened finances?

Mr. Eaton's reference to the \$33,000 said to have been subscribed, adds nothing to the strength of his apology. The money has not yet been paid—won't be paid for years. As a present source of revenue it is *nil*. No banker or merchant would ever dream in his estimates for a present emergency to count on an assert so uncertain.

Is it not therefore conclusive that the governors from a financial point of view were so justified in this extraordinary and hitherto undiscussed movement, without some reference of the matter to the friends of the institution. Mr. Eaton's letter at any rate, discloses no such justification.

The second count which Mr. Eaton was called upon to defend is the establishment of a chair in a branch of study foreign to the design of our academic course. In his reply he has not recognised apparently the simply duty of showing the necessity of such a chair. The necessity of furnishing *other* chairs has long been apparent—referred to in college reports—urged upon us by faculty from time to time—enforced by many an agent in his appeal for funds, and accepted by the denomination as a first charge upon its funds. Never till the other day, in sacred conclave it seems, was the discovery made by the governors that "nothing was so much needed" as a chair of didactics. Mr. Eaton gives no reason for this sudden change of policy. He expatiates freely on the value of the teaching art. I admit all. He writes well, with a facile pen, but unfortunately not to the point. No one can reasonably object to a chair of didactics, nor for that matter to one "On the whole duty of man." But many things may be good—"dead sure things"—that are not expedient at the moment. Why, what is the fact? In this very year of grace you are hopelessly losing numbers of the flower of your youth because you have no chair of modern languages. In this practical age, with colleges all around you, well equipped, well professed, with a curriculum designed to embrace the living wants of the day, and bidding as they successfully *must* do for the training of the rising generation. What

vanity, what blindness and puerility, to set up a modest institution like ours as an example to the continent, and that too while scholars and professors are passing our doors for the portals of other institutions. It's too serious a matter to be trifled with—and this latest move is the veriest trifling—playing at educational work, when real live questions confront you. Mr. Eaton will have to manufacture a good many more fine spun theories on "the principles and practice of education" before he can justify the sacrifice of these other more important chairs for that of didactics.

The third charge, namely the mode in which this strange work "got itself done"—Mr. Eaton dismisses with equal freedom. I am sorry to see him skulking around legal corners and often dodging when an awkward question is hurled at him, especially when a simple matter like this has to be discussed. Of course the senate has the *legal* right to "imitate" without asking anybody's advice. Of course the governors have the *legal* right to do all sorts of things at their own sweet will. But this is not the way Baptists have been wont to address themselves to denominational matters. They glory and rightly so, in doing their work in open handed fashion in broad daylight—under fire of the most searching criticism—in the full *st* confidence that if the measure be worthy it will meet with generous support, if bad it will receive a just condemnation. For the first time in my memory this goodly usage has now been violated, and a scheme secretly canvassed and worked up for diverting the hard earned contributions of the people from their ordinary channels sprung upon us without notice or enquiry. Mr. Eaton endeavors to escape the odium by sheltering himself behind the senate. But he himself tells us in the same line that the senate did *not* initiate this. It originated at a meeting of the governors, was fully discussed there, settled there; "they saw their duty—a dead sure thing, and went for it there and then."

It is remarkable how with Mr. Eaton the most unlikely events so happily coincide. Dr. Welton's resignation synchronized most beautifully with the unexpected willingness of Dr. Rand to relinquish his pet work in N. B. Then the meeting of the senate and that of the governors happened on the same day, in the same building and, perhaps in the same room. Then when the governors were at their wits' end to find a man to fill the new chair, "enquiry elicited the fact," that right among them, sitting with them, was the one man in these maritime provinces fit for the place. And at the same opportune moment "it transpired" that this man would not take the chair for less than \$1600. Then surely it must have been that the compact between the contracting parties was struck, viz., he to "broaden down" knowledge to the comprehension of the Baptists—they to "level up" his salary. As to salary I have only space for a word. The sum is not excessive except by way of comparison, but just in this respect our governors have introduced a dangerous element into the affairs of

the institution. I don't care whether the other professors accepted the situation or not. If the proposition were really submitted to them, they must have found themselves in an uncommonly humiliating position. But what I do care for is the sanction given to a vicious and unsound principle. It is contrary to all usage, political, ecclesiastical or educational, for the chief of a staff to receive a less salary than his puine assistant. No more demoralizing element, affecting both discipline within and support from without, could be introduced into any institution of learning than this virtual *imperium in imperio*. An innovation so unconstitutional would not be tolerated a moment in any body imbued with the spirit of British institutions. You may point to cases where larger salaries have from other sources been attached to particular chairs or offices, but to our board of governors has been reserved the brilliant conception of graduating the scale of salaries inversely to the order and rank of the office.

Dr. Rand, we all know, is a good man, and I have been sorry in some of the correspondence to see reflections cast upon his abilities. All must admit his mastery in this chosen field of learning, and personally, I should be glad to see my old friend, "the Mastapha," back to a spot redolent with the fragrance of old friendships and the memory of many a lusty tussle, but I shall be sorry to see him filling there the chair of didactics.

ANOTHER ALUMNUS.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

[For the Christian Messenger.]

MR. EDITOR.—In your editorial of last week you say that the reason of Dr. Welton leaving Acadia College for Toronto was not because his salary could not be paid, "As the funds (of the College) were never in a better position." I think this association cannot be sustained by facts. The debts when paid off, would not leave income sufficient to meet the requirements of annual expenses by at least \$1,000 and for several years past the annual accounts could only be met by borrowing from the bank or from the Endowment Fund.

If any one will take the pains to look back a few years previous to the published accounts in the Year Book, they will find that the Treasurer was enabled to meet the Convention with a clean sheet, owing no man anything. It occurs to me that this was a more favorable state of finance than can be exhibited at present. At the time referred to it was a principle with the Governors not to go into debt. The receipts were much smaller than at present, but matters were so arranged as to keep the expenditure within the income.

When the teaching staff needed to be increased, the matter was brought before the Convention, the

Governors stated the necessity of the case and asked assistance, the *confidence* reposed in this body met usually a willing response, and the money required was cheerfully provided.

In the case of a tutor with a salary of \$600 being required, the selection of Rev. Alfred Chipman was named to the Convention, which was told that if he were employed it must be done by individual subscription; as might be supposed *twenty* persons stepped forward and pledged \$0 each, and by this method his salary was paid. Again when a tutor was required to be advanced to a Professorship and his salary raised, the late Dr. Cramp pledged \$400 annually so as not to entrench on the funds otherwise needed, this he paid out of his limited income for several years.

The "Alumni" subsequently wanted to bring Dr. Pryor from Boston to fill a chair in the College, but the Governors only consented to do so on the pledge of that Society being given to pay his salary or the main portion of it; which they did, whilst he remained there.

When Professor Elder was elected to a chair of Natural Science his salary was paid *entirely* by pledges made by friends of the College, no other funds were required; when these subscriptions were withdrawn the chair was vacated.

I refer to these matters to shew that in former years when a Professor was wanted, the first consideration with the Governors was the state of the treasury. Were the same course pursued now, there would be less complaint than is caused by appointing a Professor, and then having to meet his salary by borrowing from a bank or using trust funds, which ought to be considered too sacred a deposit to be diverted from the object intended by the donors.

When the Governors act with due prudence and imitate the action of past years by not going into debt, then may it be said "the funds of the College were *never* in a better position"—but not till then.

J. W. BARSS.

October, 15, 1883.

ACADIA VERSUS DALHOUSIE.

(To the Editor of the Citizen and Evening Chronicle.)

SIR.—In two letters, which appeared recently in your morning contemporary and in your notice of a cartoon published in Wolfville, it is intimated that Dr. Rand was approached by the Governors of Dalhousie College to become a professor in it, and in consequence the Governors of Acadia College provided for him a chair at Wolfville, in order to prevent his going to Dalhousie. I have very good reason for saying that the Governors of Dalhousie never approached Dr. Rand for such a purpose, so that, if the Governors of Acadia have appointed Dr. Rand for any such reasons, they have been badly sold.

A.B.

•YE DIDACTICS AND YE PROFESSOR OF DIDACTICS.

[To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.]

Sir,—I have read with especial interest every-
thing that has yet appeared in your columns in
reference to the late action of the governors of our
college, and as there are several important points
yet to be explained, "it seemeth good unto me also,
having had perfect knowledge of all things from
the very first to write unto thee in order," and ex-
plain some of them. Some one may be curious to
learn why Dr. Rand, having already the position of
superintendent of education in N. B., should so
hunger to become a teacher of didactics; why he
should interview Dr. Saunders, Dr. Sawyer, John
W. Bars, Esq., Dr. Aylward, the professors, and
many other leading friends of the institution, and
represent to them the advantages of having such a
chair in the college; and why he, an influential
member of the board of governors, should advocate
before his brother members a measure which so
greatly concerns himself. The answer to all these
things is easy to give, and the whole transaction
becomes as clear as mud, when it is given. There
was every probability of his dismissal over there.
He had become extremely unpopular. Teachers' institutes
were speaking out in unmistakable terms, the
party in power was opposed to him in politics,
and the death of Dr. Elder deprived him of his
chief friend and supporter in the Government.
"The prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth
himself." Dr. R. is a prudent man; he foreseaw
the evil, he made for the hiding-place, but whether
or not he has yet found it is a question "quod est
demonstrandum." Just there the story was started
that Dalhousie wanted him. This story is now
known to be without a shadow of foundation, but
it served as a perfect bugaboo to those persons who
are now trying to wibble around in the shoes of the
Baptist fathers of former years. They could afford
to lose Dr. Schurman for the want of a little money,
but Dr. Rand—never! It only required a little
interviewing, a little whispering, a little skulking,
a few secret meetings, a little manipulation of the
senate, and hurrah! hurrah!! Acadia College has
got what no other college in Canada has—a PRO-
FESSOR OF DIDACTICS! Talk not to us of the im-
portance of modern languages and science, or of the
benefits to be derived from a course of lectures on
agriculture! Haven't we got a professor of didac-
tics! It is true we haven't any money to pay his
salary—it is true we excluded scholarship holders
from our secret meetings—it is true we passed the
vote in the dead hour of the night—but these are
only mere matters of "detail" for "grumblers" to
think about!

The Baptist denomination of this province pays
its aged and infirm ministers, on an average, the
munificent sum of fifty dollars a year. The board
of Governors of Acadia college can afford to pay
one of their own number the sum of sixteen hun-
dred dollars a year for doing a work which no one

has asked for and no one wants done. Verily,
"Many traces of Eden we still maintain, but the
trail of the serpent is over it all."

ALIUS ALUMNUS.

THE DIDACTIC CHAIR AT ACADIA.

(To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.)

SIR,—I wish to add my testimony to the wide-
spread indignation felt at the recent act of some of
the Governors of Acadia College in creating a chair
of didactics for Dr. Rand. I do not intend writing
a long article to show what an outrage this creation
is upon the generosity of the friends of the college.
I will leave that for those better qualified, some of
whom have already done good and timely justice to
the task. I wish to say, however, that if the gov-
ernors persist in carrying out this untimely ap-
pointment they can look for my present subscrip-
tion, as well as for any future ones, in some other
quarter. I do not say this for myself alone, for I
know it to be the feeling of many others in all
parts of the Province, and it is not without cause.
I love the college, and have always felt pleasure in
her prosperity, as well as sympathy for her in her
trials. Long have I desired to see a more efficient
staff of professors, and had the governors filled any
of the many wants so long and so much felt by all
students and graduates of Acadia, their act would
have been hailed with delight and approved by all.
But to think of a college to-day without a chair of
modern languages, without thoroughly equipped
science department, wanting a second man in the
English department, and with one man doing all
the work in Greek and Latin, yet having the gorge-
ous, fancy and useless appendage of a chair in
didactics is too much for an ordinary mortal to
grasp. Ho, Acadia! What a page in your history
is now to be written, when you can afford to do
without the needless and embrace the useless!
What a luxury will be this didactic chair, a some-
thing of which no other college cares to boast.
Come, all ye shades of departed students, repair
again to your alma mater and learn that without
which you cannot be happy, and for which you
now pant as the hart after the water brooks, didac-
tics, didactics. That for which the college was
founded and for which our fathers and mothers la-
bored and prayed, viz., theology, is squeezed out by
the pressure of \$1,600, and in jumps didactics,
which, with its partner, is to bring back the good
old days of college revivals and restore all things.
Surely the millennium is now about to dawn and
the darkness in which we have been so long grov-
elling is to fly before its rays.

But, Mr. Editor, we would ask even if it would
be shown that this chair was needed in Acadia or
any other college, where is the proof that Mr.
Rand is the man to fill it? Where did he receive
his didactical training? or in what respect has he
shown any fitness for such a position? No one
but the governors who concocted this scheme has

been able to perceive wherein it lies, or that Dr. Rand is anything more than a man of ordinary ability, and it is freely acknowledged that Dr. Welton would have been better qualified for the position, and that he would have taken it at a salary of \$1,000.

No, Mr. Editor, this thing will not go down, and I am thinking that if Mr. Rand attempts his didactics at Acadia he will find the situation made warm and pleasant for him.

SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDER.